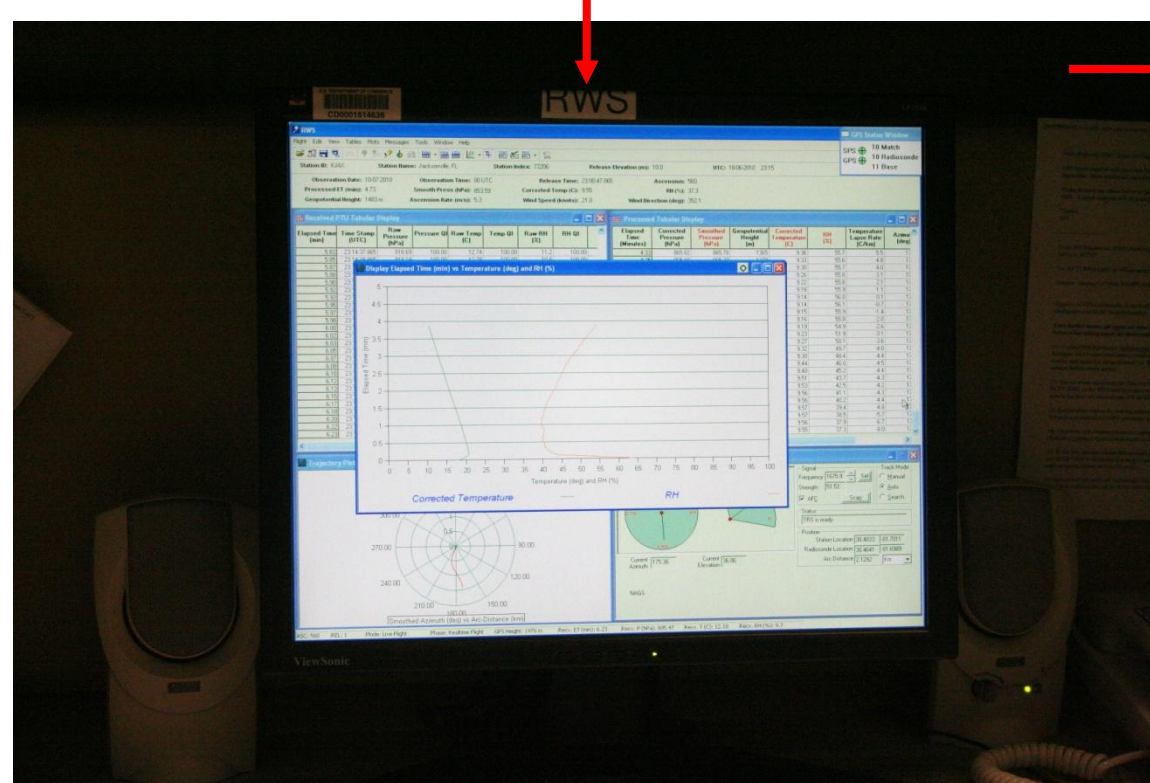
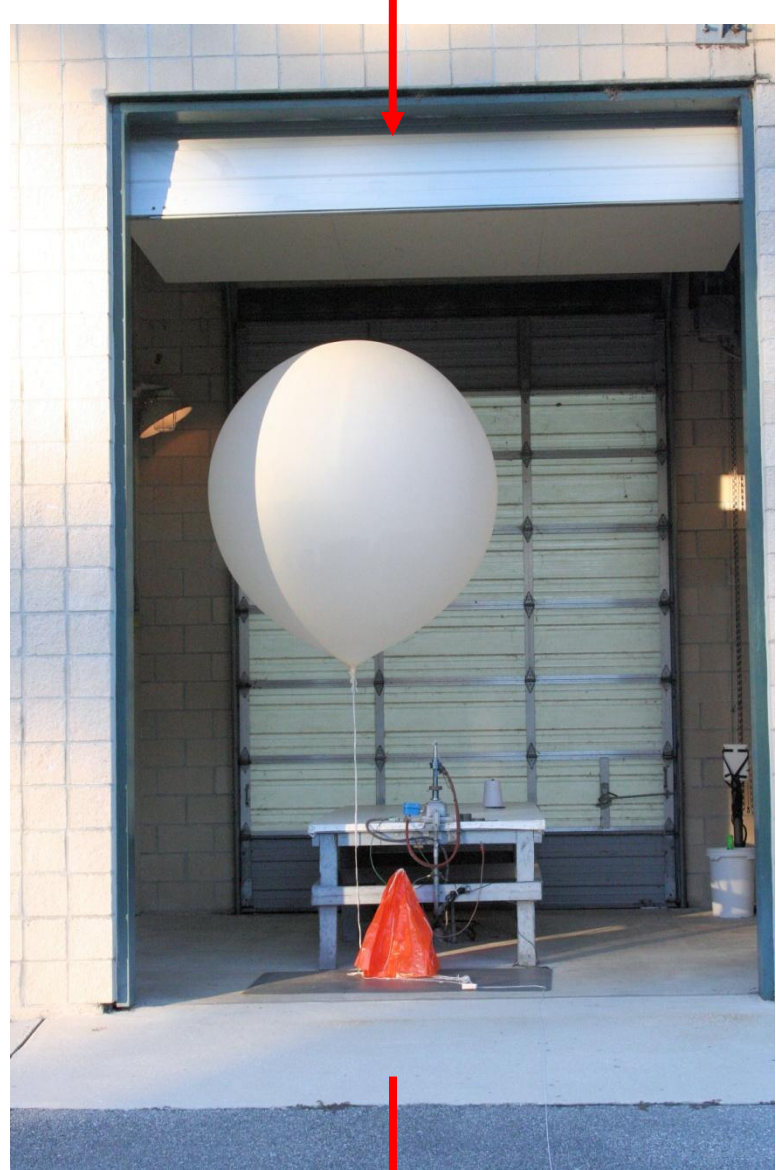


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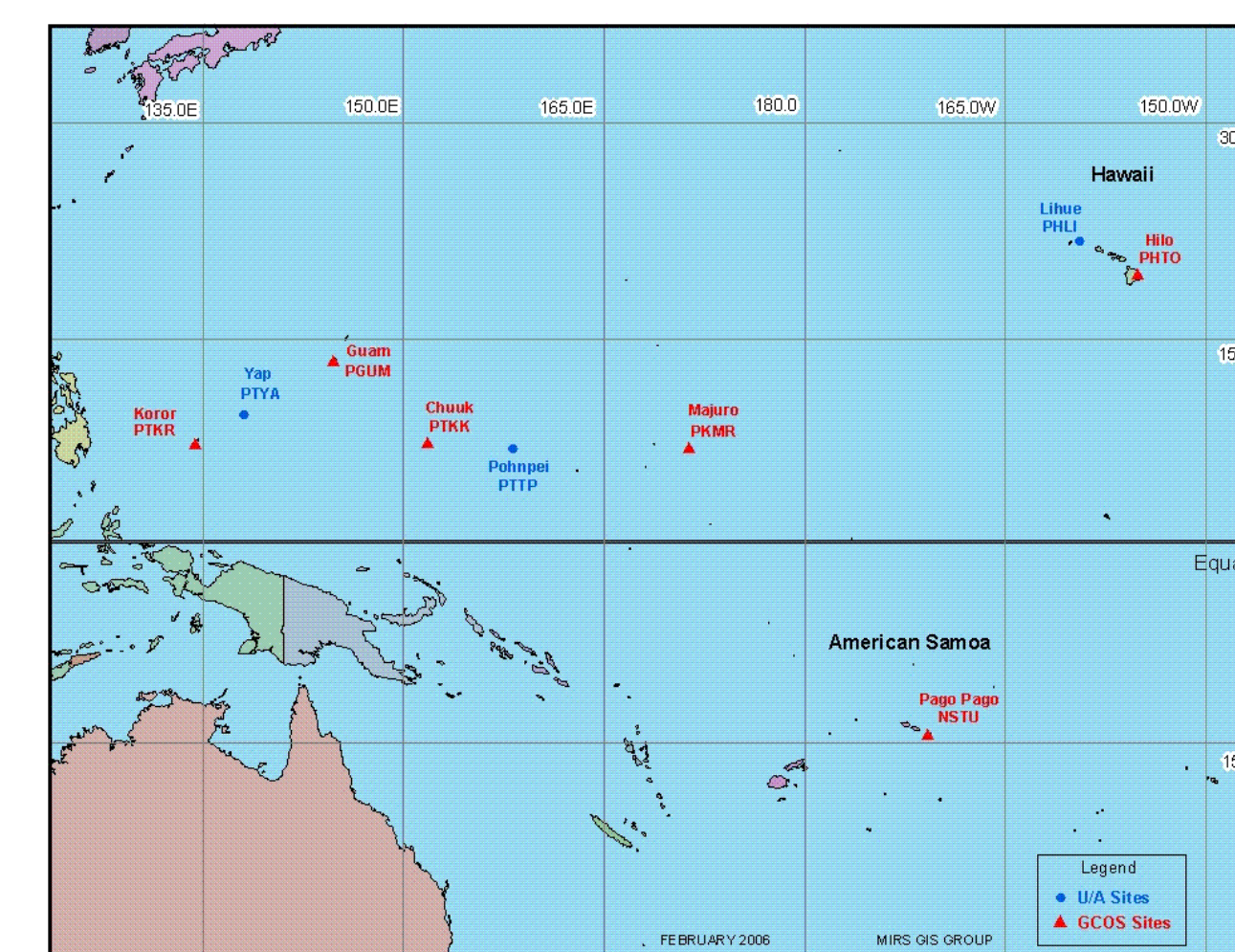
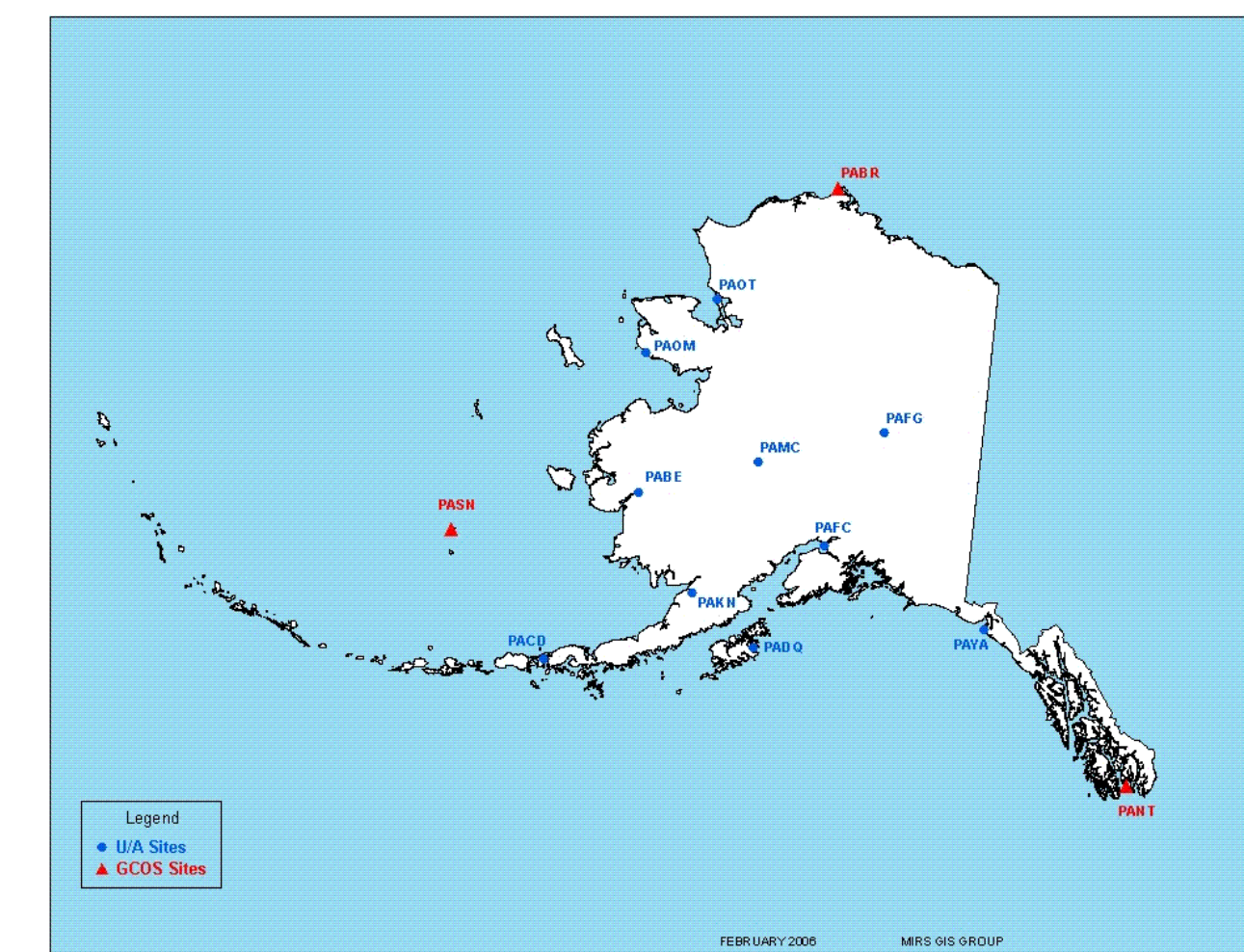


Background

- WFO Jacksonville is one of 92 upper air sites in the United States
- Data are collected by weather balloons which are launched twice daily, at 7 am EST and 7 pm EST
- Each observation generates the data used in forecast models
- When requested, 6-hourly releases are conducted in support of the Storm Prediction Center, the National Hurricane Center and Special Research Projects

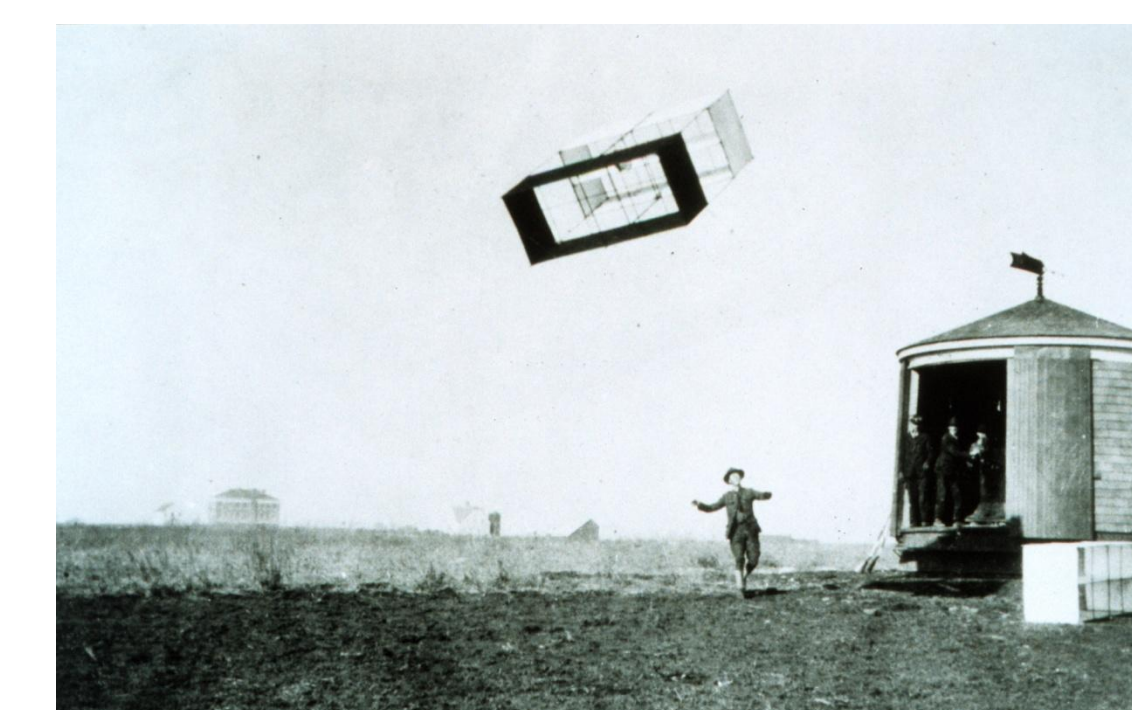
Timeline

- 1956 – Upper Air program begins at US Weather Bureau office (Imeson Airport/Jacksonville Municipal Airport)
- 1967 – Upper Air program transferred to Weather Service Meteorological Observatory (WSMO) Waycross, GA
- Jan 25, 1995 – Upper Air program transferred to National Weather Service Office (NWSO) Jacksonville, FL
- Jan 15, 2007 – Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Jacksonville upgrades to Radiosonde Replacement System (RRS) with GPS-capable instruments



Upper Air Network

Changing Observational Methods



Kite Observations, c. 1900



Plane Observations, c. 1934



Balloon Observations, c. 1936



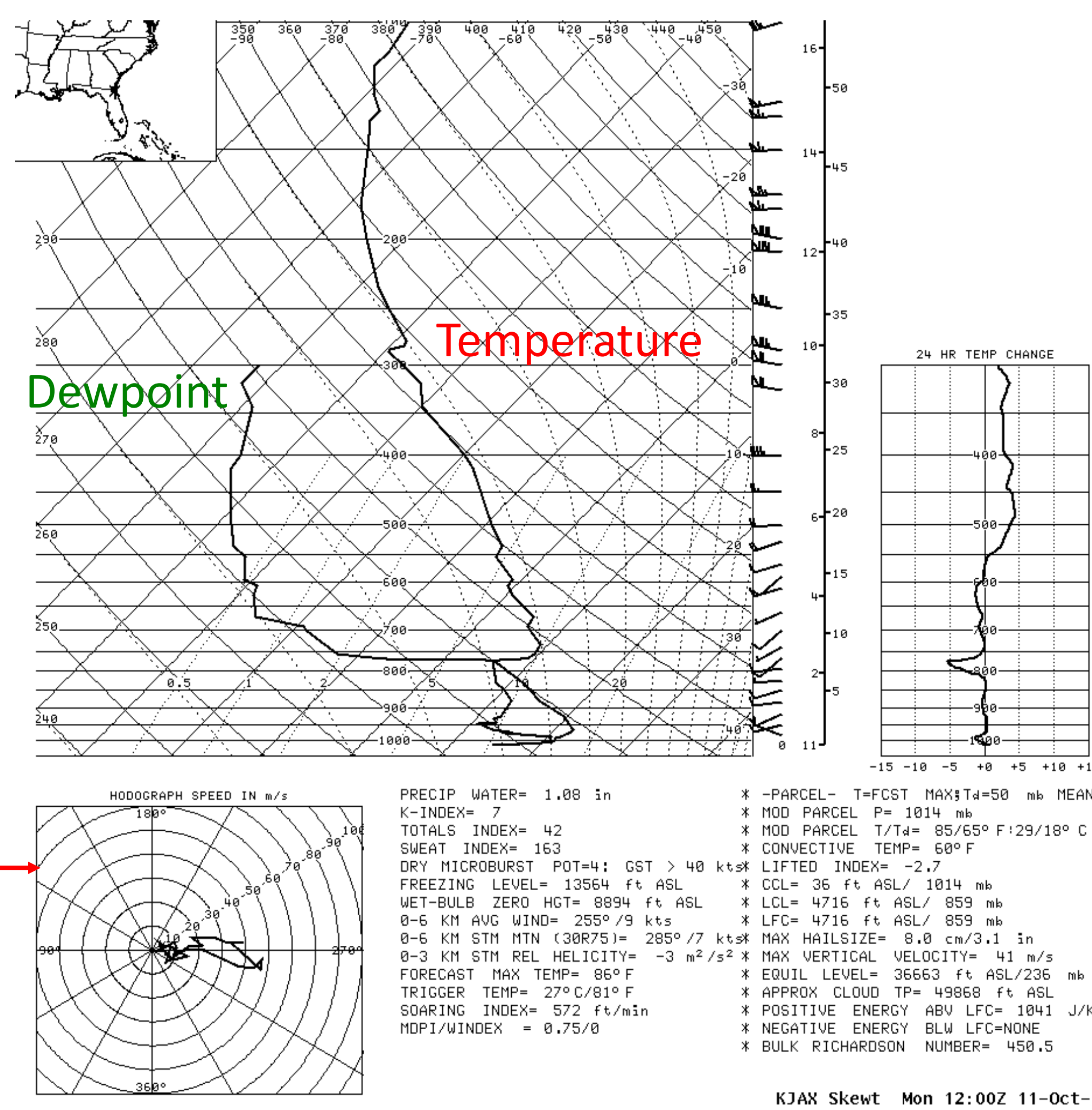
Balloon Observations, c. 2010

Data Collected from Upper Air flights include:

- Pressure
- Temperature
- Relative Humidity
- Dewpoint
- Wind speed and direction

Uses for the data include:

- Severe weather
- Fog/Low clouds
- Precipitation type (in winter)
- Fire weather



Upper Air Chart

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